

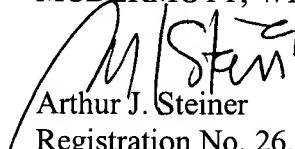
The amendment to Page 1 is attached in Appendix A.

REMARKS

Entry of this preliminary amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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## APPENDIX A

### IN THE SPECIFICATION:

#### Reference to Related Application

This Application is a continuation of International Application No. PCT/JP00/03411, whose international filing date is May 26, 2000, which in turn claims the benefit of Japanese Patent Application No. 1999-148153, filed May 27, 1999, and Japanese Patent Application No. 1999-289734, filed October 12, 1999, the disclosures of which Applications are incorporated by reference herein. The benefit of the filing and priority dates of the International and Japanese Applications is respectfully requested.

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